

# **C** *Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club* **CARRIER**

**Volume XLIII**

**W6CX**

**January 1996**

## **January Meeting**

\*\*\*

### **Expand Your Horizon**

**Friday, January 19th**

**8:00 pm**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

**1035 Carol Lane**

**Lafayette, CA**

Our new vice president, Ignacio Huerta, AC6NY, will be the speaker at the January meeting. Ignacio's program will be titled "Expand Your Horizon" and will be devoted to his plans to attract speakers to discuss new and exciting amateur radio technologies at future MDARC meetings. Don't miss it!

For a preview of Ignacio's talk, read his article on page 7.

## **Communications Diaster: Huge Storm Topples 250' Diablo Tower**

Paul W. Girard, KC6TZU

Winds of more than 130 miles per hour at 7:30 a.m. December 12 toppled the 250 foot communications tower atop Mt. Diablo and destroyed the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club antenna for 2 meters, 220, 450 and ATV.

The Club's losses are estimated to be

about \$2,500. Insurance claims are being investigated.

Shortly after the tower fell, authorization was given by the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group Steering Committee to purchase a triplex antenna and a triplexer which would allow the repeaters to operate on a limited basis. This equipment was installed on the structure where the repeaters are housed. The vault was not damaged in the tower collapse.

While demolition contractors were in the process of clearing thousands of pounds of steel, coax and hundreds of antenna from the debris, commercial power to the club's repeaters was accidentally cut, putting the system out of commission for a second time.

The temporary antenna system was installed by Barry Winkler, KC6WYA and Keith Lattin, N6PMF.

Lattin, was able to use an extension cord to once again restore power to the repeaters on December 18.

The 2 meter and 220 repeaters are up and running on limited output, the 440 repeater is not operating nor is the ATV repeater.

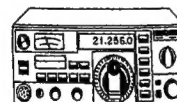
According to news accounts, the 250 foot tower may not be rebuilt for several months while engineering and geophysical engineering take place.

While the collapse of the tower is a communications nightmare, "it serves to reinforce the need for RRRG to consider a system of voting receivers," said Dick Schulze, AA6DL. He contends that a voting receiver system, as is in use on several systems in the area, would con-

tinue radio coverage for the W6CX repeaters, even though the main repeater is operating at limited output.

W6CX repeater users are reminded that while the repeater system is operating in an emergency mode coverage may be limited on some frequencies and non-existent on others. It is important that everyone be patient, and it is more important that users practice courtesy and consideration for the people having difficulty communicating on the system.

Repairs, upgrading of the system and the associated costs will be considered by the RRRG Steering Committee and then brought to the membership in a full report.



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## Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

P.O. Box 23222  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first of day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to nj6a@ccnet.com (preferred), via packet to NJ6A-1 on 145.05 or NJ6A@KD4CVR.#NOCAL.USA.NA, or delivered to the editor at the address listed below. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII, Word for Windows, or WordPerfect format. Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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## Larry's Lines

### Larry Gansz, KB2GV

Happy New Year. I hope all had a joyful holiday and the start of a prosperous 1996. Congratulations to all the award recipients at the holiday dinner and many thanks to everyone. So many dedicated significant time and effort serving the club, community, and improving amateur radio. Joyce, KD6PNO, and the social committee provided an outstanding evening. Also, thanks to our families and friends for their support and understanding.

At the January general meeting we'll vote on the 1996 budget published in this Carrier. Please take a few moments to look at our incomes and expenditures. Our new vice president, Ignacio, AC6NY, will lay out his plan for meeting programs. If you have any ideas or requests, let him know.

Classes start again very soon. We have a new advertisement thanks to Paul, KC6TZU. Jim, WB6LQG, will provide the class and exam schedule. He can always use instructors and people to circulate flyers. The auction, always a bit hit, will soon be here—please support Dennis, KC6QHH. Other things to peak your interest or work on are public service events—contact John, KM6QX. For field day, see Lauren, WA6CIE. Some committees need new chairs, including bylaws, publicity, RFI, social, community coordination, Pacificon 96 & 97. Time to step up and show your talent.

As we start 1996, let's continue to move our club and amateur radio forward, introduce, develop, and improve communications technology. The frontiers we forge now are the seeds of later rewards.

Have fun and prosper in the New Year. Se ya' on the air. 73, Larry, KB2GV

### KB6OCI Dead at 86

## SEYMOUR SNAER, Prize Photographer

### Paul W. Girard, KC6TZU

**BERKELEY**—Seymour Snaer, KB6OCI, a prize winning photographer for the *San Francisco Examiner* and a long time member of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club died at Alta Bates Hospital on December 21 following a brief illness. He was 86 and is survived by his wife of 57 years, Flora, KB6OCI.

Snaer retired from his photographer's job with the *Examiner* 17 years ago, but never put down his camera. He had been with the Hearst Corporation since 1943. Following "retirement" he went to work for Princess Cruise Lines and worked his way around the world with his wife at his side.

Snaer designed the first PACIFICON logo for the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club, capturing a long competition to design the logo. It consisted of an American Flag with Mt. Diablo in the background.

An innovator, Snaer received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of California at Berkeley and then went to work as a free-lance photographer. In 1937 he took the first natural color action shots of a track meet for the *New York Mirror*, according to Who's Who in California.

In one of his prize-winning photos, titled, "I'll be OK, Mom," Snaer photographed a poignant moment as a Marine, back from Korea's battlefields, leaned forward from a wheelchair to embrace his mother. The Marine's legs had been blown off.

The American Society of Media Photographers included a photo he snapped in 1970 at the terrorist bombing of a San Francisco church during

the funeral for a San Francisco policeman in its book, "10,000 Eyes." The photo is of debris flying as the bomb went off. Snaer was just outside the concussion area while other photographers were within the area and unable to shoot film. It was the only photo of the explosion as it happened.

From the mid-1940's until he retired, if there was a major event in the San Francisco - Bay Area, you could always count on Seymour being one of the first photographers on the scene. A short man, Seymour was usually able to command a more advantageous shooting spot than larger photographers.

His sense of timing rarely let him down and he rarely took a photo without a pipe in his mouth. He had a keen sense of humor and was always willing to help "cub reporters and photographers" understand the meaning of reporting and photographing the news.

Seymour befriended me in 1949 as a pupil at St. Augustine's Grammar School in Oakland where his daughter, Mary, now deceased, also attended. He encouraged my own photo-journalism through high school and college. We worked side-by-side as journalists and photographers through the Vietnam war. He has remained a good and valued friend. He will be missed.

## A Good Ending to What Could Have Ended in Tragedy

**Harold, KD6AAT**

Wednesday, 12/13/95, at approximately 20:15 hours a call for help came over the 06 repeater. A club member, Bradley, N6JPR, was holding at gunpoint a burglar who had broken into his deceased father's home. The phone in this Lafayette home was disconnected, so Bradley was dependent on his handheld radio for immediate police assistance. Fellow ham N6TDJ from Antioch, Ca, contacted 911 dispatch and did an excellent job of providing vital information to the police dispatcher. In today's world, particularly in this type of situation, this could be an ambush in

the eyes of responding officers. Police were reluctant to rush the small home behind an apartment complex to assist Bradley because of lack of details. N6TDJ relayed this vital information to the police dispatcher and instructed Bradley to turn on the lights and stand in the window with gun drawn. Police were able at this point to gain entry to the home safely and effect the arrest. This incident went on the better part of fifteen minutes. Thanks to ham radio and two dedicated club members, Keith Lat-tin, N6PMF and Barry, KC6WYA, who braced high winds and pouring rain on top of Mt. Diablo to the 06 repeater on line on that date. No loss of life, no injury, and a happy ending to a situation which has often ended tragically.

## WU6P Resigns Citing Health RRRG LOOKING FOR TREASURER

**Paul Girard, KC6TZU**

Stan Christian, WU6P, who had been elected treasurer of the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group in November replacing Norma Davis, N6EJZ, has resigned citing health considerations.

The resignation has sent the Nominating Committee scrambling for an equally qualified candidate for treasurer.

Qualifications include:

- Membership in MDARC and RRRG
- Ability to work with computerized data bases
- Knowledge of budgetary processes
- Ability to keep financial books on a computer base
- Willingness to devote time and energy to the function of treasurer, including paying bills, mailing membership dues statements and depositing funds to bank accounts.

Applicants should contact Paul Girard, KC6TZU, RRRG Secretary and chairman of the nominating committee. Qualifications should be faxed to him at 609-8400 or sent by mail to 3775

Walnut Avenue, Concord 94519-1947.

Action on the vacancy will be taken at the January Steering Committee Meeting.

## MDARC Christmas Party A Huge Success

**S. Clause, NPØLE**

The annual Christmas party of the club was held at Zio Fraedo's restaurant on December 13, 1995. The restaurant was decorated for the event with Christmas trees and wreaths and the tables were decorated with poinsettia plants. The meal was the traditional turkey and all the fixings. Santa made an appearance and gave presents to the children. The club members joined in singing Christmas songs to the accompaniment of Lee Stuart at the piano. The singing of the Twelve Days of Christmas was particularly memorable.

In addition to the customary awards, a special proclamation was given to George and Bertha, WB6OFH and KE6ELP. The proclamation was in the form of the "Stale Doughnut Award" given in recognition of their considerable help in increasing the size of all of our waistlines through their providing doughnuts and soda at the club meetings. Also presented was the \$10,000 check from PACIFICON'95 to MDARC, this being the profit from the convention.

The W6CX awards were given to Gerry White, WB6IZE, Norma Davis, N6EJZ, Dick Brown, KT6X, Jay Caldis, KT6Y, Sam Lipson, KO6JR, Jim Wallace, WB6LQG, and Laura Wallace, KE6ETX. Public Service Awards were given to Larry Bevier, KC6ZMH and John Stuart, KM6QX. The Kilroy Key was awarded to Dick Schulze, AA6DL and Doris Schulze, KC6SUA. Ham of the Year was awarded to Barry Winkler, KC6WYA.

There were drawings for door prizes as well as the flowers on the table and a pound of See's candy. Quite a number of the guests went home with an early Christmas present. If you missed this affair, be sure to plan to come next year for you will have a great time.

## DX Corner

**Jerry Gardner, NJ6A**

In last month's installment we covered basic equipment and operating procedures. This month we'll cover the fine art of listening.

Sure, you can work DX by calling

CQ DX, but with low power and modest antennas, you aren't likely to attract much more than the common JA, DL, and VE stations. To work the semi-rare and rare DX you must adopt a hunt-and-pounce approach. The DX is out there and there is plenty of it—all you have to do is find it. With that in mind, let's get into it.

With your headphones firmly in place, rig warmed up, and bandswitch set to a band open to DX, let's start tuning. Use a fairly narrow filter while tuning (I use 500 Hz), since this will reduce noise in the passband and reduce the effect of strong nearby signals on your receiver's AGC circuit.

Although you can start tuning anywhere, you'll find most DX at the low end of the band, so tuning up from the lower band limit is a good place to start. While not absolutely necessary, an extra class license is a big help, since you'll find the majority of DX in the lower 25 KHz of the CW subbands.

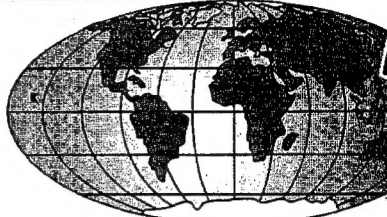
Tune methodically while trying to identify every signal you hear. Stop on every signal and listen long enough to identify the stations involved. Don't take anything for granted, i.e., don't pass up the strong local station you hear on groundwave—he may be in QSO with that 8P7 you need.

Sometimes you'll get lucky and run across DX calling CQ. This is almost the ideal situation, since chances are good that you'll be one of the few stations responding to his CQ. In this age of DX packet clusters, if you don't work him fast, you'll soon be dealing with a howling pileup. Once a pileup starts, you have a much lower chance of getting through the stations with large monoband (continued on pg 8)

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## MDARC Board of Director's Meeting

### December 15, 1995

President Larry, KB2GV, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at the QTH of Secretary Richard, WA5HQJ. Some members of the outgoing board as well as the new Board of Directors were in attendance as were some guests. Treasurer Rod, KE6QYK, reported that we had a checking balance of \$4,872.84 and that he had a large number of renewal checks to deposit. The balance reflected payment of current bills including the Christmas party (\$2,064) as well as the donation to AMSAT (\$500) and Carrier and related expenses (\$895). Membership Chairman Dick, AA6DL, asked if the club's tax return had been corrected. Upon learning that it had not, he reminded the group that action was still to be taken. Rod said that a preliminary audit had been completed but that a thorough audit should take place after the books were closed for the year.

Dick, AA6DL, reported that we have 681 members and this includes 210 family memberships. He said that he had 319 members signed up for 1996 including 30 new members; it was the consensus of those present that we might be ahead of last year for this same time. He said that January 31 would be the cutoff date for members to be included in the directory. Further related to cutoff dates, George, KB6OFH, said that we would have to do something different concerning the cut off date for the Christmas party next year as he received reservations that were mailed on the cutoff date but of course received after that date.

Director Ray, KD6BLS, reported that the books had all been distributed to the schools and libraries. Secretary Richard, WA5HQJ, read two thank you letters received from libraries who had received books. Ray also provided photos showing the books; a copy will be sent to QST by Secretary Richard.

Guest at the meeting Dick, KT6X, reported on his attendance at a meeting with Division Director Brad, K6WR. He will consider writing a piece for the *CARRIER*. Dick also reaffirmed that he will not take the position of Pacificon Chairman for 1996. He offered to be an assistant to the Chairman and would consider taking the position in 1997. He also reported on the status of the club's potential BBS. He has made software available to a few members for testing. He said he needed more dedicated testers and spoke of the need for a board position relative to charging for copies of the software. Figures of \$1.00 and \$3.00 were mentioned.

The Board had received a copy of a draft proposal relative to the possibility of some arrangement with a municipal police department whereby we would solve the insurance problem and still have reasonable use of the trailer. A motion was made and then withdrawn relative to having Vice President John, KM6QX, continue negotiations with the individuals at the city. Some objections were raised to the agreement and these have been referred by Secretary Richard to John who will pursue the matter. The plan of the Board was to have the matter ready for action by the club membership in February. John advised that he felt he could have his work done so that it might be brought to the membership in January. A special Board meeting is currently scheduled for January 15 at a place to be determined. In

## THE BASE STATION

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order that the club might make a decision based upon all the information, it was also requested of John that he determine the cost to the club of an insurance policy, regardless of the cost, and to determine the fair market value of the trailer should the club decide to sell it.

Because of the collapse of the radio tower at Mt. Diablo, a temporary structure is being erected in the lower parking lot, the same place where we traditionally hold our field day activities. It is likely that the parking lot will not be available to us in June. It will be necessary to find another place. Lime Ridge, previously proposed as a place for demonstration stations for the public at field day time, will be investigated.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to planning the budget for 1996 which will be published in the *CARRIER*. The final items of discussion at the meeting concerned programs for 1996 and the need for a person to handle publicity for the club. At the end of the meeting, outgoing Secretary Richard turned over his records to the new Board.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard M. Shappee WA5HQJ, Secretary, Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

## Trailer Project Dilemma Solved, Donation to Martinez PD Proposed

**John Stuart, KM6QX**

Last April, MDARC members approved \$5,000 to purchase and outfit a small enclosed communications trailer for MDARC use at public events, field day, etc. The trailer was delivered from Wells Cargo and put on display at the June MDARC meeting. When we notified our insurance carrier that we now owned a trailer, they informed us that our liability insurance would not cover any accidents involving the trailer. They said trailers are excluded because they are classified as an "auto." However, our policy would cover the use of non-owned autos.

During the next several months I contacted several insurance brokers who

in turn contacted dozens of insurance carriers. Their findings were all consistent; other insurance policies also excluded owned trailers for non-profit clubs like MDARC. Liability insurance could be purchased specifically for the trailer, but the cost would be about \$1,500 per year, more than doubling our current premium. Not an attractive option!

One option would be to abandon The Public Events Communications Trailer Project and sell the trailer. To date, MDARC has invested \$4,000. The trailer could probably be sold for between \$1,500 to \$2,000. Thus MDARC would have to "write-off" approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500 and have nothing to show for it!

We have pursued a more productive option. Since our current insurance policy does cover a non-owned trailer we investigated donating the trailer to a public service agency with the provision that we would be able to borrow it back for MDARC events. Jerry Boyd, KG6LF, Chief of the Martinez Police Department, has accepted such an offer and a written agreement has been drafted.

In the proposed agreement, MDARC would donate the trailer to the Martinez Police Department (MPD). The MPD would store the trailer and allow it to be used by registered Disaster Services Workers (RACES Volunteers) for MDARC events.

Specifically the proposed agreement calls for MDARC to; (a) transfer the ownership of the Trailer to MPD as a donation, (b) install such radio communications related equipment as MDARC in its discretion deems appropriate into the Trailer to ready the Trailer as a field radio communications center, (c) maintain the trailer and installed equipment in safe and good working condition, (d) insure that only persons who are registered Disaster Services Workers (via Contra Costa County RACES or the City of Martinez) are used to tow the Trailer, (e) take reasonable and appropriate steps to insure that said towing is in conformance with all requirements of the California Vehicle Code and that vehicles used to tow the trailer are insured for liability, bodily injury, and property

damage in an amount not less than required by the State of California, (f) maintain accidental damage or loss insurance or not hold MPD responsible for accidental damage or loss of any MDARC equipment installed or carried in the Trailer, (g) grant MPD priority use of the Trailer for emergency services, (h) when appropriate, state that the Trailer is owned by MPD and was donated by MDARC, and (i) encourage MDARC members to volunteer for membership in the MPD Communication Auxiliary.

The Martinez Police Department (MPD) would agree to; (a) assume and maintain responsible ownership of the Trailer, (b) register vehicle with the DMV, (c) allow the trailer to be maintained and used by MDARC, subject to priority use by MPD, (d) provide storage space for the Trailer in a safe and secure location in central Contra Costa County, (e) allow towing access to the stored Trailer by qualified MDARC members between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. seven days per week, (f) maintain the Trailer and installed equipment in safe and good working condition after use by MPD, (g) maintain accidental damage or loss insurance or not hold MDARC responsible for accidental damage or loss of the Trailer or any MPD equipment installed or carried in the Trailer, (h) allow signs and publications to state that the Trailer was donated to MPD by MDARC, and (i) maintain insurance, or self insure, for public liability and property damage for any operation of the Trailer on or off public roads in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.

Either party would be able to terminate the agreement by giving 30 days written notice to the other party. At such time MPD would offer to return ownership of the Trailer to MDARC before otherwise disposing of the Trailer.

The MDARC Board of Directors is expected to meet early in January to review this proposal and recommend approval by the MDARC membership at the January 19 general meeting.



## Proposed 1996 Budget

By Greg Estep, KE6VTA

On December 15, 1995 the MDARC Board developed a proposed budget for 1996. It will be presented at the January 1996 General Meeting. The proposed budget follows:

### INCOME

Auction	\$1,500
Christmas Party	\$1,875
Door Prizes	\$1,500
Education	\$250
Insurance	\$600
Interest	\$300
Membership Dues	\$8,000
Patches/T-shirts	\$125
Refreshments	\$700
Pacificon 1996	\$10,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$24,850</b>

**Reserve**      \$1,720

### Expenses

Auction	\$1,000
Carrier Postage	\$2,000
Carrier Printing	\$6,000
Christmas Party	\$2,400
Door Prizes	\$1,500
Education	\$250
Field Day	\$450
Insurance	\$1,800
Membership	\$1,800
Patches/T-shirts	\$125
Picnic including door prizes	\$900
Refreshments	\$600
Rent/Coffee	\$900
Scholarship/Schools and Libraries	\$2,500
State Filing Fees	\$30
Telephone	\$125
Christmas Awards	\$300
Christmas Prizes	\$300
Speaker Gratuities	\$150
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$23,130</b>

In examining the proposed budget please note the following:

- The Auction is projected to net \$500.
- Door Prizes, Education and Patches/T-shirts bring in about what they cost.
- Carrier cost (\$2000 + \$6000) is offset by Membership dues of \$8000.
- Refreshment income is offset by refreshment expenses and \$100 of the Rent/coffee expense.
- All the remaining club expenses are funded by the proceeds from Pacificon.
- This leaves a net of \$1,720 of income that has not been allocated which is identified as **Reserve** in the above budget.

## Expand Your Horizon

**Ignacio Huerta, AC6NY**

Think back to the time that you were first exposed to the world of ham radio. Perhaps your father or a neighborhood ham let you in to their ham shack for the first time and you were awed at the amount of equipment that was neatly arranged on the shelves. After powering up the rigs and turning a few knobs

on some mysterious equipment you heard the impossible: a live voice from a far off place. You couldn't believe that this new technology allowed you to hear someone from the far side of the planet. From that time on you were hooked on ham radio.

One of the reasons that moments like this are special is that technology allows us to extend our senses or, better yet, to augment them to perceive a totally new world. As human beings we are able to

hear someone as far off as a thousand feet. Radio technology extends that capability to thousands of miles. This extension of our senses by technology makes Russia (whom I just contacted on 40M) as close as a nearby friend. Technology serves as a tool to expand the horizon of our perceived world.

We live in the most exciting technological era of all human existence. Electronic tools abound looking for a master craftsman to put them to use to "seek

new worlds where no man has ever gone before" (to loosely paraphrase from Star Trek). Does the excitement of long-path DX (i.e. 25000 miles) seem exciting? Then how about helping NASA in February test one of the transceivers on a space probe hundreds of thousands of miles away? Not far enough? Then join the SETI effort to search for signals originating thousands or millions of light years away. Now that's real DX!

Don't forget that we also have other senses. Live packet video on the microwave bands is already a reality. Now that the virtual reality Internet packet standards are being finalized how about creating live 3D video! If you are a real trailblazer then perhaps you could develop methods of remotely sensing the other senses such as touch, smell, taste, etc. Hundreds of thousands of physically impaired people would be extremely grateful.

Does all of this sound farfetched? If so, remember that a group of hams living in the Hawaii islands took on the initiative to connect the islands via packet radio in the Aloha project. Their work was the basis for broadcast type protocols on which Ethernet was based. This in turn made Internet viable as a protocol set that could be used by everyone. They planted the seed which now allows millions around the world to exchange movies, live voice, web pages, and other forms of information as easily as typing on a keyboard. The same could be said of the group that developed the OSCAR satellites (or the Microsat satellites that were so successful it practically put AmSat out of business).

So be a trailblazer! How? As your new vice-president I will be inviting guest speakers for the next year to share with MDARC what new technologies are available to the ham community. Pick any technology and see what you can do with it. Learn something new to do or see how technology can help improve what you already enjoy about ham radio.

I challenge every member of the MDARC club to relive the excitement of finding new worlds. Let "Expand Your Horizon" be the club motto for 1996!

## Trailer Vote January 19?

**Paul W. Girard, KC6TZX**

A special meeting of the board of directors of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio club called for January 2 at The Hickory Pit here to discuss the fate of the club's trailer failed to muster a quorum. However, those present, Larry Gansz, Ray Gasch and Bruce Crosky indicated by a 2-1 vote they would probably favor selling the club trailer than giving it to the Martinez Police Department.

The trailer issue has become mired in a tangle of unanswered questions and the inability of the club to secure public liability insurance at a reasonable rate. The membership originally voted a total of \$5,000.00 to purchase the brand new trailer and begin phase one of the outfitting.

Attempts to give the trailer away, with strings attached, to the Red Cross and the Salvation Army failed. Contra Costa Consolidated Fire District also rejected the "gift" because of a "string" in the gift agreement which would allow MDARC to use the trailer almost at will.

At the special meeting, Club Secretary Bruce Crosky, AHOU, said the proposal to give the trailer to the Martinez Police Department with the understanding that MDARC could use the vehicle was not a "clean deal" and expressed his opinion that the trailer should be sold outright. Ray Gasch favored keeping the trailer within the club, or giving it to the Martinez Police Department and Gansz said he would favor "advertising it for sale."

Others at the meeting, Keith Lattin, Jim Tittle, Dick Schulze and Paul Girard were given the opportunity to speak to the issue. Lattin and Tittle favored the Martinez Police Department gift, Schulze encouraged only a "clean recommendation to the membership" and Girard said he favored selling the trailer if insurance could not be purchased. He offered that insurance could be purchased at \$2,000.00 per year, but that money could be saved by purchasing a tow vehicle and then insuring the trailer.

Girard also reported that he had a \$1,500 cash offer for the trailer, but said it would be a straight sale with no caveats to allow use by the club.

A communications failure sent John Stuart, the trailer project chairman, and Sam Lipson, the club's emergency coordinator to a Concord restaurant. Stuart finally located the meeting in Walnut Creek, but Lipson gave up. Director Paul Dickey was not at

the meeting and Vice President Ignacio Huerta reported unable to attend because of illness.

Because no quorum was present and those on the board with votes did not hear discussion, it is likely the fate of the trailer may be put over until February.

## DX Corner

(continued from pg 4)

antennas and kilowatt amps.

Most of the time, however, you won't catch DX calling CQ. Rather, they'll be involved in a pileup situation or in QSO with another station. The amount of time you have to listen to identify the station varies, but generally, the rarer the DX the shorter the length of the QSO. In time, you'll learn the clues that will enable you to weed out the non-DX or common DX stations more rapidly.

Propagation effects can give you valuable clues to the nature of a signal. Signals coming from long distances, particularly those coming over the poles, have a characteristic sound that should make you sit up and listen more closely. Any signal that sounds buzzy, watery, or fluttery is probably a DX signal. Likewise, the quality of a signal's tone can be a good indication of DX. Many hams in rare DX locations cannot afford the Yaecomwood gear that we take for granted and have to build their own. A signal with pronounced chirp or key clicks will almost always invoke curiosity rather than scorn in the mind of a DXer.

Listen to the QSO itself. It can give you valuable clues. If you're freezing in your shack on a cold winter night and you hear WX SUNNY TEMP 40C, it's a good bet he isn't local!

Next month: basic pileup techniques.



## NETS

### **RRRG Nets**

APRS Net      Tuesdays 1930 Hours  
                   147.060/+ (100 pl)  
                   Net Control: Barry, KC6WYA

Phone Net     Thursdays 1930 Hours  
                   147.060/+ (100 pl)  
                   Net Control: Jay Caldis, KT6Y

ATV Net        Thursdays 2000 Hours  
                   Net Control: Mike Burke, KB6RMT  
                   Alternate: Don Smith, W6NKF

Youth Net      Thursdays 1900 Hours  
                   147.060/+ (100 pl)  
                   Net Control: Jeff Burke, KE6YAW

### **Contra Costa County Emergency Services HF Net**

First Thursday following first Wednesday, 2000 Hours,  
 3.895 MHz. Net Control: Sam Lipson, KO6JR

### **Sheriff's Amateur Radio Communications Team**

Clay Yale, N6YBQ  
 (510) 228-8223

### **Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets**

Thursdays, 1900 Hours  
 Central County 145.680 Simplex  
                                  Jim Brunk, N6BHX  
                                  (510) 372-8248

East County    146.535 Simplex  
                          Jim Tittle, KC6SOE  
                          (510) 432-3220

South County   146.355/+ (100 pl)  
                          Greg Nelson, WB6MBD  
                          (510) 933-5381

West County    145.110/-  
                          Jim Parker, KD6JCT  
                          (510) 237-2777

QSY to 147.735/- at 1920 Hours  
 Meeting of all County ARES/RACES Nets

## Membership Directory Update

### Dick Schulze, AA6DL

MDARC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

FULLAGAR, Joanne Clapp , KF6AFY, Technician. Neil KE6NCX (510)-865-8058(h)  
 401 Maitland Dr., Alameda, CA 94502

GILCHRIST, Elizabeth (Betty), AC6CIL, Extra. Arthur AB6UZ  
 P. O. Box 36 Iowa Hill Station, Colfax, CA 95713

GOLDBERG, Sylvan (Syl), W8JSN, General. Kathy  
 8519 Roberta Dr., El Cerrito, CA 94530

MATZKIN, Aaron , KE6ZZS, Technician. (510)-820-5848(h)  
 1575 St. Helena Drive, Danville, CA 94526 (510)-906-8185(fx)

PATTERSON, Marsha , KE6WKD, Technician. Mike KE6JGA (510)-944-8786(h)  
 2270 English Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

SAGE, Diana , KA6TZU, Novice. Brad K6JPR (510)-934-3166(h)  
 783 Charlton Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

January 15	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Emil Villa's Concord
January 17	7:30 pm	RRRG-General Membership Meeting	Stonebrook Convalescent Center 4367 Concord Blvd., Concord
January 19	6:00 pm	MDARC VE Exams	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1050 Carol Lane, Lafayette
January 19	8:00 pm	MDARC Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1050 Carol Lane, Lafayette
January 27	9:00 am-Noon	Fairfield Ham Exams Dick, AB6EY, (916) 791-0268	Fairfield Senior Center 1200 Civic Drive, Fairfield Last Saturday of each Month
January 31		February Carrier Deadline	
February 7	7:30 pm	RACES Monthly Meeting	Bakers Square on Willow Pass Road 1st Wednesday every month
February 4	7:00 am-Noon	Livermore Swapmeet	Las Positas College, Livermore 1st Sunday every month
February 4	1:00 pm	Sunnyvale VEC Exams Gene Capener, WW6H, 510-254-5090	Consolidated Fire Training Center 2945 Treat Blvd., Concord 1st Sunday even months

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**The Carrier**  
**Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 23222**  
**Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**



**First Class Mail**



**RRRG Meeting Jan. 17**  
**MDARC Meeting Jan. 19**